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VLADIMIR L. KOMAROV, 1869-1946

Early in 1946, in Moscow, Russia, Dr. Vladimir L. Komarov, President of the USSR Academy of Sciences and an eminent botanist, died at the age of seventy-six. To American botanists Komarov is known chiefly as the author of the "Flora of Manchuria," published in three volumes in 1901-1907 by the St. Petersburg Botanic Garden. Besides the "Flora of Manchuria," Komarov published many other botanical works. His "Flora of Kamchatka," which was the result of his travels in 1908-1909, was almost ready for publication at the time of the Revolution of 1917, but most of the proof sheets were lost. The "Flora of Kamchatka" (918 pages) was finally published in 1927-1930.

In 1912 Komarov submitted to the Moscow State University his doctor's thesis, "An introduction to the flora of China and Mongolia." He had in mind the gigantic task of publishing a "Flora of China and Mongolia," and shortly after his doctoral

dissertation was written, he began to work on the voluminous materials and collections accumulated by previous Russian explorers of Mongolia and China. How big the task was, might be judged by the fact that Komarov's monograph on Chinese *Caragana* contains 22 new species. Although the "Flora of China and Mongolia" was never completed, Komarov did finish several monographs intended for it. When in 1922 the Botanical Institute of the Academy undertook the publishing of the "Flora of USSR," Komarov became its editor-in-chief. In addition to occupying this supervisory position, he also contributed to the "Flora" as a rank-and-file botanist. Komarov's other botanical contributions are too numerous to mention. More than one hundred titles deal with the vegetation of the Russian Far East, and many papers are devoted to the flora of central Asia and Siberia.

As a student in Komarov's classes from 1914 through 1916 I remember him as being very quick in all that he did, and his lectures were sometimes quite witty and sarcastic. Then and throughout his life, his mind was occupied by the problem of what constitutes a species. In the introduction to the "Flora of Manchuria," as well as in his later works, he devoted a great deal of space to this problem.—N. T. MIROV, California Forest and Range Experiment Station, Berkeley.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE GENUS POLEMONIELLA HELLER

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The status of the genus *Polemoniella*, in which has been included *P. micrantha* (Benth.) Heller, *P. antarcticum* (Griseb.) Nelson & Macbride, and *P. Gayanum* (Wedd.) Nelson & Macbride, has been doubtful ever since Heller (1904, p. 57) segregated it from *Polemonium*. Brand (1907) reduced it to a synonym of *Polemonium*, whereas Nelson and Macbride (1916, p. 35) and Wherry (1941) accepted Heller's genus.

Heller differentiated between *Polemonium* and *Polemoniella* as follows:

CHARACTER	<i>Polemoniella</i>	<i>Polemonium</i>
Inflorescence	scattered, solitary	cymose panicles or racemes
Flower shape	nearly rotate	mostly funnellform
Filament base	nearly naked	dilated pilose appendaged
Corolla length	less than calyx	several times calyx
Flower size	small, inconspicuous	showy
Habit	annual	perennial